ANNUAL REPORT
of the
STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
VETERANS AFFAIRS

1987

Dr. Gerald Sheehy, D.V.M., M.L.A.
Chairman

The Third Session of the
Fifty-Fourth General Assembly

ANNUAL REPORT
To The
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Of The
STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

1987

Presented by:

Dr. Gerald Sheehy, M.L.A.
Chairman

The Third Session of the Fifty-Fourth General Assembly

Annual Report
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

The Committee

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs was established by the House of Assembly on March 27, 1987. The members of the Committee are:

Dr. Gerald Sheehy, M.L.A., Chairman
The Honourable Roger S. Bacon
The Honourable Michael A. Laffin
The Honourable Thomas J. McInnis
Mr. John Newell, M.L.A.
Mr. Jack Coupar, M.L.A.
Mr. James Barkhouse, M.L.A.
Mr. Guy Brown, M.L.A.
Mr. Bob Levy, M.L.A.

Secretary to the Committee:
Mrs. Joan Kelly

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs are referred to in the Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly, page 41 (60), **COMMITTEES**, as follows:

(9) The Veterans Affairs Committee is established for the purpose of considering matters pertaining to the Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The Report

The Interim Report of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs was prepared by Ms. Dianne M. Stillman, through the services of the Committees Office of the House of Assembly, which is responsible for the clerical and administrative support of the Committees.

Minister Not On Committee

(5A) With the exception of the Attorney General, who shall serve as Chairman of the Law Amendments Committee, no Minister shall be appointed to a Standing Committee established for the purpose of considering matters normally assigned to or within the purview of that Minister's department.

Acknowledgements

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Witnesses for their time and co-operation. The Committee also thanks Province House Staff and the staff of the Committees Office.

The Committee also acknowledges, with gratitude, the co-operation of Mr. Speaker, Arthur R. Donahoe, Q.C. and his staff.

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Meetings Held

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs met with members of the Executive of the Royal Canadian Legion - Nova Scotia Command as follows:

Date	Witnesses
April 15, 1987	Mr. J. Kenneth Brown Provincial President Mr. Bob Haley Chairman and 1st Vice-President Mr. Ted Martens Dominion Representative Mr. Otto Feener Sergeant-At-Arms and Immediate Past President
November 19, 1987	Mr. J. Kenneth Brown Provincial President Mr. Bob Haley Chairman and 1st Vice-President Mr. Gerald Cunningham 2nd Vice-President Mr. Ted Martens Dominion Representative Mr. Robie Horne Vice-Chairman

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INTRODUCTION

As a result of two meetings held during 1987 with the Royal Canadian Legion - Nova Scotia Command, and subsequent follow-up, the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs is pleased to provide the following report.

Business Arising from the Meetings of April 15 and November 19:

Patriotism in Public Schools

Concern over attitudes displayed in Nova Scotia schools prompted the Royal Canadian Legion to bring the problem to the attention of this Committee. Following a unanimous Committee decision to do so, the Chairman approached the Minister of Education to solicit his help in promoting patriotism in public schools.

As a result of this endeavor, the Royal Canadian Legion has noted a marked improvement in the way school children show respect to their national flag and are encouraged to sing "O Canada" and "God Save the Queen".

Flags

The Legion Executive noted that flags on many public buildings are in a state of disrepair and should be removed and replaced without delay.

The Committee Secretary provided members of the Executive with copies of the Secretary of State publication, "General Rules for Flying and Displaying the Canadian Flag and Other Flags in Canada".

Exemption From Taxation

A major concern of the Royal Canadian Legion is the financial difficulties being faced by some veterans as a result of limited incomes and pensions. Since 1983, the Legion has been proposing that hardships faced by veterans could be alleviated by the exemption of tax on real property for all those veterans under the age of 65.

A Committee member noted that all monies (including pensions) received by a claimant would have to be taken into account before any form of assistance could be granted. It was agreed, however, that the Chairman would look into the possibility of having the Committee meet with representatives of the Department of Municipal Affairs to discuss this issue.

Lottery Tickets

Through the assistance of the Committee, the Legion was successful in obtaining a lottery license. It's purpose in selling lottery tickets is to provide the branches involved with additional revenue, which would enable them to carry out various community projects, as well as to make charitable donations.

In the early stages of the project, the method of book-keeping was considered to be too time-consuming. This problem has since been resolved, however, resulting in a marked increase in the number of participating branches.

Remembrance Day

Of particular concern to the Legion is the practice of stores remaining open on Remembrance Day. The Legion Executive has requested the Attorney-General (with the full support of the Committee) to assure that appropriate measures are taken to discourage offenders. As a result, fines for such infractions have increased from $5,000 to $15,000.

Sale of Draught Beer and Ale in Legion Branches

Since 1983, the Royal Canadian Legion has been proposing to the Nova Scotia Liquor License Board that draught beer and ale be sold in Legion Branches. The Board has since suggested that this request should be made directly to the government.

As this practice is permitted in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island and appears to have caused no difficulties with beverage rooms and taverns, the Legion is actively seeking the government's co-operation.

It was agreed that the Chairman would arrange to meet with Policy Board to discuss this issue.

Flag Presentation

At the April 25, 1986 meeting of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, the Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia Command advised the Committee of its intention to present two ceremonial flags (one Nova Scotian and one Canadian) to the Province.

Although originally scheduled to take place on May 16, 1986, it became necessary for various reasons, to postpone the presentation. It actually took place in the Legislative Chamber on Wednesday, February 25, 1987 at 10:00 a.m.

The ceremonial gold-trimmed flags were the first national or provincial flags ever to be hung in the Legislative Chamber. During the ceremony, the flags were marched into the Chamber by a Colour Party from the Nova Scotia Command, before being blessed by the Legion Padre, the Rev. George Beech and presented to the Premier and the Speaker of the House of Assembly. The flags now hang behind the Speaker's Chair, one to each side.

Participants in the ceremony were:

Mr. Ken Brown
President - Nova Scotia Command

Mr. Otto Feener
Sergeant-At-Arms
Immediate Past President - Nova Scotia Command
and
Dominion Executive Member

Reverend George Beech
Padre - Nova Scotia Command

The Honourable John M. Buchanan, P.C., Q.C.
Premier of Nova Scotia

The Honourable Arthur R. Donahoe, Q.C.
Speaker of the House of Assembly

Dr. C. W. MacNeil, M.L.A.
Chairman
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs (1986)
and
Members of the Standing Committee
on Veterans Affairs (1986)

Among the invited guests were more than thirty senior Legion Command Officers and their wives, as well as Members of the Nova Scotia Legislature, representing the three official parties.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the Red Chamber, Province House.

Resolutions

At the Dominion Convention of the Royal Canadian Legion, held in June 1986, the following Dominion and Provincial Command Resolutions were approved:

National Flag of Canada

BE IT RESOLVED that the Royal Canadian Legion express deep concern and regret for the lack of dignity, reverence and protocol rendered Canada's national flag; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislation be passed and enforced, with penalties for the improper use of our flag and all governments (federal, provincial and municipal), government agencies, business firms, school boards, service clubs, and Canadians in general be made aware of the national flag of Canada and be encouraged to fly our nation's flag in a correct and proper manner in accordance with protocol.

Waste Disposal

BE IT RESOLVED that the Royal Canadian Legion urge the federal and provincial governments to work more closely together to place safer controls on the production and use of these products and the disposal wastes at any stage of these programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it be made compulsory to report all storage depots, large or small, of all hazardous products, and a computerized up-to-date record of locations and products stored should be available at any time of day or night to fire chiefs, police chiefs, civil defence personnel and other authorized persons.

Medicare

BE IT RESOLVED that the Royal Canadian Legion go on record as supporting the stand by our Federal Government on user fees and extra billing by doctors and hospitals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that requests be made of both our provincial and federal governments that there be no interruption or destabilization of the health care delivery system in Canada.

Patriotism

BE IT RESOLVED that the Royal Canadian Legion, at every level of command, work unstintingly towards instilling patriotism among its members and the general public. This would include ensuring that respect and pride in the flag of Canada and the national anthem is observed by schools, professional and amateur sporting events, as well as in our Legion branches.

Multiculturalism

BE IT RESOLVED that citizens of this land be designated as Canadians only, and that such designations as English-Canadian, French-Canadian, Ukrainian Canadian, Chinese-Canadian be deleted forthwith from all government documents whether municipal, provincial or federal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the media, schools and universities be urged to follow suit.

Following the approval of these Resolutions by the Convention, they were presented to the Federal Government.

Note:

The Resolutions, in full detail, are available with copies of this Report at the Legislative Library.